

RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For the Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Option Program (ARC)

These pages give you your rights and responsibilities and other important information. The county needs your facts and the child's facts to see if the child is eligible for ARC benefits. If you need more information or have questions, ask your child's social worker.

YOUR RIGHTS

1. To be treated equally without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, political affiliation, marital status, gender identity, disability, or age. You may file a complaint if you feel you or the child has been discriminated against, by first speaking with your county's designated civil rights representative or by writing to:

State Civil Rights Bureau
744 P Street, MS 8-16-70
Sacramento, CA 95814

or by calling collect (916) 654-2107 or for the hearing impaired via the California Relay Service operator at (800) 735-2929.
2. To ask for help to complete the application.
3. To ask for forms and notices to be translated if you don't read English.
4. To be treated with courtesy, consideration and respect.
5. To have eligibility determined promptly.
6. To discuss the child's case with the county and to review the child's case yourself when you request to do so.
7. To ask for additional money if the child's income drops or stops.
8. To be notified in writing when the application is approved, denied, or when the child's benefits change or stop.
9. To have the child's records kept confidential by the county and state, unless otherwise provided by law.
10. To talk with someone from the county or file a formal complaint with the state if you don't agree with an action taken by the county.
11. To ask for a State Hearing within 90 days of the county's action.
12. To ask for a State Hearing, you can write to your county, or call the State toll-free at (866)-741-6241.
13. To be represented at a State hearing by yourself, a household member, friend, attorney, or other person of your choice. NOTE: You may get free legal help at your local legal aid office or welfare rights group

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Social Security Number (SSN) Rules

SSNs will be used in a computer match to check income and resources with records from tax, welfare, employment, the Social Security Administration and other agencies. Differences may be checked out with employers, banks or others. Making false statements or failing to report all facts or situations which affect eligibility and aid payments may result in repayment of benefits and/or criminal or civil action.

Cooperation

To cooperate with county, state and federal staff. A county worker can come to your home at any time to check out your facts, including seeing each family member, without calling ahead of time. The child may not get benefits or your benefits may be stopped if you don't cooperate.

Citizenship/Immigration Status

To sign under penalty of perjury that the child applying for ARC benefits is a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or has lawful immigration status. We will check the immigration status information with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to be sure the child is eligible.

Child and Medical Support

To cooperate with the county and the Local Child Support Agency to:

- identify and locate any absent parent in your case;
- tell the county or the Local Child Support Agency anytime you get information about the absent parent, such as place of residence or work location;
- determine the paternity of any child in your case when needed;
- get medical support money from any absent parent and, get child support money;
- give the Local Child Support Agency any medical support money and, any child support money the child gets;
- tell the county about medical coverage or money for the medical services paid by either parent.

YOUR REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

You must report all changes related to the child to the county. If you're not sure how to report changes, what changes to report, or what proof we need, ask your child's social worker.

WHEN YOU MUST REPORT

You must report when:

1. The child gets money (including lump sums) from work, relatives, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB), Veterans benefits, tax refunds, accident or injury settlements, or any other source.
2. The child gets medical support money.
3. The child's job or training program changes.
4. The child's income or source of income changes, starts, or stops, including self-employment.
5. You and/or the child move to another address, plan to move (including out of state), or get a new mailing address. If you move to another county and you want to keep getting benefits, you must tell the county giving you aid and/or benefits.
6. The child gets payments or allowances for job, training, or school expenses, such as educational grants and loans, transportation to and from job or training, etc.
7. The child gets, sells, gives away or transfers real property, such as a home, buildings or land; or business or personal property, such as money, a bank account, a motor vehicle, a boat, a trust fund, etc.
8. The child's parent(s) move into the home.
9. The child's citizenship/immigration status changes.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Independent Living Program (ILP)

When the child reaches age 16, the child is eligible for ILP. ILP provides life skills education and services to foster youth age 16 or older. Please contact the county ILP Coordinator for assistance.

Income Disregards

If the child is participating in ILP, any income earned as part of the program is exempt. When the child has income other than ILP, the child may be eligible for other income deductions. NOTE: This income must still be reported.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program

The WIC Program is only for pregnant and breast feeding women, infants, and children under age 5, who are at medical-nutritional risk. For more facts about WIC, call your local county health department or the phone number for "WIC" in the telephone book.

Other Benefits

You or any one in your household may apply for any other benefit program such as CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Adoptions Assistance Payment Program, In-Home Supportive Services, etc.

I understand that giving false or misleading statements or misrepresenting, hiding or withholding facts to establish eligibility is fraud and that I may be subject to penalties under state and federal law if I provide false or untrue information. Fraud can cause a criminal case to be filed against me and/or I may be barred for a period of time (or life) from getting ARC benefits.